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MEDICAL SOCIETY OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY.—This Society met yesterday morning at the Bath Hotel of Bath, at 11 o'clock. There were present, Drs. Berlin, Buzzard, D. Engleman, J. P. Engleman, Fox, Green, Kern, Koch, McIntyre, Reeser, J. Sandt, A. A. Seem, A. Seip, W. H. Seip, Steinmetz, Uhler and Weaver.

The meeting proved a very interesting one. The reports of the delegates to the meeting of the State Society at its Chester meeting; the report of the Committee on School Hygiene, on ventilation, portion of which we give below, and a paper on the feeding of infants, being especially noticeable. After adjournment the ample repast furnished by "mine host" of the Bath Hotel, was fully enjoyed, and the members separated to meet in Easton on the third Wednesday of August.

REPORT ON SCHOOL HYGIENE.

By ventilation we understand the means used to remove the air of apartments and replace it with pure air. This is an important process. Since, when many people are crowded together, a large amount of zymotic or fermentable matter is exhaled from the lungs, and being taken again into the lungs is one of the main causes of our epidemics and consequent high death rates in our school children. In securing ventilation we must also consider its somewhat antagonistic companion, warming. * * *

The average quantity of carbonic acid gas in expired air or breath is found to be 4.3 to 4.4 per centum by measure.

This gas, when taken into the lungs, is a poison, and tends to arrest the vital processes. This poison can be rendered harmless by dilution. The small proportion naturally existing in the atmosphere is perfectly harmless, and it may be somewhat increased without sensible effect.

To breathe air for a long time containing one measure or part of carbonic acid in 100 is indeed very injurious. It is desirable that the proportion should never exceed one in 500.

In addition to carbonic acid, exposed air contains a large amount of watery vapor and minute quantities of animal matter. To keep the air sufficiently fresh and wholesome in rooms where many persons are collected, it is found by experiment that on an average about one half a cubic meter of fresh air per minute for each individual must be supplied. Ventilation consists of two operations, the removal of foul air and the introduction of fresh, both operations going on simultaneously.

The old fashioned open fire place made one of the most efficient of ventilation. * * *

* * * It is suggested that for our town and city schools, or where there are a number of school rooms in one building, that special ventilating flues be constructed separate from but close to the fire flues, which are to terminate in one tall chimney. And for our district school houses, a similar flue alongside of the smoke flue. Means also should be taken to admit fresh air into the room, which should be warmed before entering.

Another great point in the unwholesomeness of air is that it is heated to excessive dryness. Heated air has a greater capacity for moisture than the same amount of colder air, and if this is not supplied it will be thirsty and absorb moisture from whatever it comes in contact.

In looking over the reports we find that the following schools outside of Easton are reported as having no means of ventilation: Flatfield School—Lower Mt. Bethel, Independence District.

Franklin School—Palmer Township.
Delaware No. 6—Williams Township
Franklin School—Grammar, Secondary and Primary, Bethlehem Borough.
Female Secondary—South Easton.

While many of the others have very inefficient methods.

The schools of Easton are presented in a supplementary report. The report will be published to-morrow.

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W. P. SCHELL.

VENTILATION OF EASTON SCHOOLS.—We yesterday published the proceedings of the Northampton County Medical Society at their meeting on Tuesday last, at Bath, together with a committee report on school hygiene. The following supplemental report by the same committee on the ventilation of Easton schools will be read with interest by all parents interested in the health of their children, and should receive the careful attention of the Board of School Control. By the report it will be seen that the various school buildings are more or less deficient in ventilation. The question may be asked are not our school buildings breeding disease among the hundreds of children who are confined in them every day, and is not the lack of ventilation the cause of many of the cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria, which during the past year, carried so many little ones to their graves? We commend the report to the Board of Control, and trust they may act on it during the Summer months. The report is as follows:

VENTILATION OF THE EASTON SCHOOLS.

An application of the principles set forth in the main report to the means of ventilation of the Easton schools may be of interest to the members of the Society.

As there are usually several schools in one building, the examination of one room, taken at random, in each building, will answer the present purpose. In the First Ward building, corner of Fourth and Ferry streets, Primary School, No. 1, the cubical contents are 403.1 cubic meters, having a seating capacity of 68, thus allowing 5.9 cubic meters for each scholar.

It is provided with one ventilating register 0.60 X 0.40 m. at the floor and another of the same size at the ceiling, opening into the same flue; also a smaller register 0.25 X 0.20 m., near the floor, opening into the flue through which a steam pipe passes, and discharging into the room on the third floor.

Now, since both of the larger registers cannot be used at the same time, the surface of the opening for exit of foul air amounts to $0.60 \times 0.40 = 0.24$ square meters and $0.25 \times 0.20 = 0.05$ square meters, or .29 square meters in all.

Now, if one-half cubic meter of fresh air is required per minute, there is required in this room 34 cubic meters of air every minute and the ventilating flue must take the same amount of foul air out of the room to allow space for the fresh air. This would equal a column 117 meters long, having a base to contain 0.29 square meters, that is the air must escape at the rate of 117 meters per minute, or 7020 meters per hour, which would make quite a perceptible draft. To put the calculation in another way, the entire atmosphere of the room would have to be changed once every twelve minutes to keep it up to the standard. Again, the smaller of the two registers should never be used as long as the third story is occupied, since it sends into these rooms the vitiated air from the first floor, so that the current must be faster even than our calculation. It may also be doubted whether the flue is so constructed as to cause a draft of this velocity; besides the room is heated by direct radiation by means of steam radiators in the room, and there is no special provision to supply the room with pure air to take the place of that exhausted, so that we are forced to conclude that the method of ventilation in this building is insufficient.

In the Mae High School, high school building, with its class room, we find three openings each, at the floor and ceiling, 0.375×0.4 M. The surface of each of these equals 0.15 square meter, or for the three 0.45 square meter. The cubical contents of the rooms equal 686.4 cubic meters, with accommodation for ninety-six scholars, giving 7.15 cubic meters to each. Pursuing the same calculation as in the former case, a column of air 100 meters long should pass out of these openings every minute, or 6360 per hour, an improvement on the other school, but still rather rapid. This school is heated by indirect radiation, which makes allowance for the ingress of fresh air.

There are two other school buildings in this ward, which at the time of the collection of our data had no means of ventilation. Since then means have been taken to secure ventilation; as, however, we have not the size of the openings, we cannot criticise.

The Third Ward school is supplied with ventilating registers, but we are not furnished with the size.

In the Sixth Ward, the building known as the primary hall, has no means of ventilation at all.

In the Academy Building, Sixth Ward, primary school No. 1, A division, there is an exit opening at the floor 0.305×0.23 m, giving a surface of 0.08 square meters. The room has a capacity of 202.82 cubic meters with accommodation for forty-eight scholars, or 4.2 cubic meters for each scholar. Twenty-four cubic meters of air per minute would be required or a column of air 300 meters long would have to pass out of the opening, this would equal 18,000 meters per hour, which would make quite a brisk gale.

In the Seventh Ward school building, the newest, and consequently the best, there is no means of ventilation. The child with all the modern improvements ought not to be guilty of defiling the pure atmosphere of this earth, and we fear alas, as a consequence of the sapieney of the "nobody-to-blame," who erect our public buildings, many a little one unable to adapt itself to the modern idea, goes to breathe another air. We have thus candidly reviewed the ventilating arrangements of our public schools, and yet we do not wish to blame anyone, for that is not our province, nor have we the means to determine on whom the blame should rest. It may be with the architect, for we have heard of men who have said that "ventilation was played out in public buildings." It may be the Building Committee who would not sanction the additional cost. It may be that after the building had been erected the requirements of the school have made it necessary to put in more desks than the architect planned, and no thought was taken of this important question. But it all goes to show that there should be some one person who should be consulted upon all these questions, who should be paid for his advice, and who should bear the blame if there is a fault. The amount of sickness prevented would more than pay for liberal fees.

SOUTH EASTON.

THE Episcopal Fair commences in the Town Hall to-morrow night.

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